

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figs. 9-12 to include the legend "Prior Art".

Attached hereto are replacement sheets for Figs. 9-12.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-16, and 18 remain in the application with claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-12, 14-16, and 18 having been amended hereby and claims 3, 13, and 17 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to the drawings.

Figs. 9-12 have been amended hereby to include the legend "Prior Art". Also submitted are replacement sheets for these figures.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 10, 14, and 18 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The claims have been amended hereby to eliminate the apparent inconsistency as originally set forth therein

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are clear and definite in their recitation of the present invention and meet all requirements of 35 USC 112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 15, and 16 under 35 USC 102 (b), as being anticipated by Ikabata.

In paragraph seven of the Instant Official Action claims 3-5, 13, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended hereby to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3 in its entirety. Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claims 11 and 12 have been amended hereby to include the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Claim 13 has been canceled.

Claims 15 and 16 have been amended hereby to include the allowable subject matter of claim 17. Claim 17 has been canceled.

Therefore, because the independent claims now all include allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the cited reference.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6-16, and 18 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Hidaka.

As noted hereinabove, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Claims 6-10 depend from claim 2 that now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Claim 14 depends from claim 12 that now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 17. Claim 18 depends from claim 16 that now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 17.

Therefore, by reason of the inclusion of allowable subject matter in the independent claims, it is respectfully


submitted that claims 1, 2, 6-16, and 18 are patentably distinct over the cited reference.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, to include allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that all claims remaining in this application are now in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli", is written over the printed name.

Jay H. Maioli
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JHM:tb